

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جوردين تايمز يومية سياسية وصحيفة اردنية الراي

Red Army suspect arrested

TOKYO, July 20 (R). — A suspected member of the Japanese Red Army guerrilla group was arrested here today on arrival after being deported from Sweden. Police said the man, identified as Takamoto Takahashi, a former professor of French literature was arrested here on suspicion of having used a forged passport. Swedish police said the man was detained last Wednesday near where ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting countries were meeting. Japanese police said they want to question Mr. Takahashi, 42, for his alleged role in the Red Army and on suspicion of travelling on the forged passport while claiming to be an Indonesian.

Mutiny in 11 Spanish cities

MADRID, July 20 (R). — A spreading rebellion by hundreds of prisoners reached three more cities today, bringing to 11 the number affected since the mutiny began three days ago. The convicts were occupying prison rooftops to press their demand for amnesty for common-law offenders. Hundreds of political prisoners have already been released in the 18 months since General Franco died. About 30 prisoners have been injured by police smoke bombs and rubber bullets since the revolt began. The mutiny spread today to Barcelona, Burgos, and Santa Cruz De Tenerife in the Canary Islands. — (See picture on page 6.)

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King Hussein returns; Says not promoting any new peace plan

AMMAN (J.T.). — His Majesty King Hussein returned Wednesday evening from a two day, four nation tour of the Gulf. The King was met at Amman airport by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, members of the Royal family and senior officials.

His Majesty held talks this morning with the President of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan in which they reviewed political efforts being made to achieve a just and durable settlement of the Middle East crisis and means of promoting joint Arab action to attain Arab national aspirations.

The King, accompanied by Prime Minister Mudar Badran and senior Jordanian officials, arrived in Abu Dhabi Wednesday morning from Qatar where he spent the night after visiting Kuwait and Bahrain for talks with these country's leaders Tuesday.

Talks with Sheikh Khalifeh bin Hamad Al Thani, the Emir of Qatar, were resumed by King Hussein on Wednesday morning. His Majesty also gave an interview to Qatar television which was due for broadcast Wednesday night.

In the recorded interview King Hussein said Jordan would not renege on its recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole representative of the Palestinians. But, the King said, Jordan was willing to speak for other Arabs if asked to do so.

His Majesty told Qatar television that he was not promoting a specific plan for a Middle East settlement.

Neither was he promoting a specific formula for setting up

a possible Palestinian state.

The King said Jordan was "prepared to carry out any policy or undertake any mission if called upon to do so by all the Arab states and the PLO."

King Hussein said he had tried to convince Arab leaders two years ago to leave the question of Palestinian representation until after the liberation of the West Bank from Israeli rule.

But now that all the Arab states have recognised the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, Jordan continued to be committed to this recognition.

He said the door was open for discussions with the PLO on relations between Jordan and a liberated West Bank but these "could only be tentative hypotheses" such as his proposed Jordanian-Palestinian federation.

"Any legitimacy for such plans could only come from the exercise by the Palestinian people on its own land of its right to self-determination and to choose its own leadership," he added. Only a Palestinian leadership chosen by the Palestinians after liberation would have the right to decide on future relations with Jordan.

The Jordanian people (of the East Bank) would also have the right to have a say, he added.

The King, who was officially reported earlier to be undertaking this Gulf tour to tell other Arab leaders of the substance of his talks in Washington recently with President Carter.

He praised Mr. Carter as "honest and courageous." He wanted to do everything possible to achieve a permanent and just peace in the Middle East, said the King.

He said he was not sure whether the Geneva conference would reconvene before the end of the year.

But he would only like it to meet if it was well prepared to avoid failure, he added.

"Failure might lead to long-term negative results," he said.

King Hussein described the recent election victory in Israel by the right-wing Likud group as a "discouraging development" and said the Arab states must prepare themselves for possible surprises.



His Majesty King Hussein is greeted at Abu Dhabi airport Wednesday by United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan. (AP wirephoto).

No PLO at Geneva insists Begin

Softpedals territorial issue

WASHINGTON, July 20 (Agencies). — Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin ruled out participation by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at a reconvened Geneva Middle East Peace Conference. Earlier, U.S. President Jimmy Carter told newsmen it was likely the Geneva conference would reconvene in October this year.

Mr. Begin was addressing a news conference on the framework of a proposal designed to bring peace to the Middle East which he presented to President Carter during two days of talks here.

He said none of the countries taking part in the Geneva conference should set any prior condition before its resumption.

He added that the countries at the conference should be Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Mr. Begin said Israel would also agree to Lebanese participation if this were suggested.

But he made no reference to the PLO, whose presence at the conference table is regarded as essential by some Arab states.

Spelling out his proposals for a reconvened peace conference, Mr. Begin said it should start with public statements by the countries involved, after which "mixed commissions" should be established.

These commissions -- three or four of them depending on whether Lebanon were involved in the negotiations -- would have rotating chairmanships.

In that framework, "peace treaties will be negotiated." "When we say a peace treaty we mean mainly the termination of a state of war..." he added.

Although he earlier avoided a reference to the PLO, he ended his opening remarks by declaring: "We cannot accept participation of that organization."

He welcomed remarks by the U.S. State Department spokesman recently supporting the signing of peace treaties by Israel and its neighbors, pointing out that the United States and its allies signed such treaties with Japan after World War II.

He said that after declaring that the state of war was terminated, the treaties should establish geographic boundaries between the countries and later go on to less important matters.

"We want peace, we yearn and pray for peace, we want real peace. We should start negotiating seriously peace treaties," Mr. Begin said.

He said that if the delegations from the Arab countries insisted that the PLO be represented, the door to negotiations would not be shut.

He suggested two alternatives.

One involved the formation of the same mixed commissions, only they would be set up with U.S. diplomatic assistance and could convene in any of the capitals of the countries involved or on neutral soil.

The second alternative was the convening in New York of "proximity talks," first suggested by the United States in 1972, in which the parties would all gather in this country and negotiate through U.S. intermediaries.

Mr. Begin said his government would not object if Palestinians were members of other delegations such as that from Jordan.

"If Palestinian Arabs participate in the Jordanian delegation, we will not look for their credentials," he said in response to a question. But he added:

"The organization called PLO cannot participate in that delegation. Palestinian Arabs cannot." He declined to go into details of Israel's position on territory it had captured during and since the 1967 war.

Meeting with newsmen after a last and what he termed "harmonious" session of talks with Mr. Begin, President Carter said:

"I believe I have laid the groundwork now, and barring unforeseen difficulties, that will lead to the Geneva conference in Geneva."

Referring to his talks in the past months with Arab leaders, and now with Mr. Begin, President Carter said: "There are still differences that have to be resolved between Arab and Israeli leaders. But we have not found them so adamant in their positions that they are not eager for accommodation."

He said it was difficult, however, to predict the outcome of the conference, should it resume.

President Carter said Secretary of State Cyrus Vance would be making a tour of Arab capitals, taking in Israel, from Aug. 1.

The principal remaining difficulties, he said, were territorial questions and the Palestinian issue.

But both Israelis and Arabs had agreed to negotiate on the basis of United Nations resolutions 232 and 338, he said.

Despite artillery exchange in south Hopes rise for final settlement of Lebanese-commando crisis

BEIRUT, July 20 (R). — Lebanese rightists and leftist-Palestinian forces exchanged artillery fire for 30 minutes today in the country's volatile southern region.

But elsewhere calm prevailed and there was widespread hope that a final settlement of the latest Lebanese crisis was now at hand.

The optimism spread after a statement last night by Palestinian commando leader Salah Khalaf (Abu Jihad) that agreement had been reached by Lebanon, Syria and the guerrilla movement on ways to resolve controversial issues.

Lebanese rightists have expressed doubts about a settlement but Muslim politicians -- both leftist and conservative -- joined Palestinian commandos in describing recent developments as positive.

No casualties were reported in today's artillery exchange between guns in the eastern section of the southern region, bordering Israel. Two other southern fronts were quiet.

Local residents also reported more flights over the south by Israeli warplanes.

Lebanese newspapers today gave banner-headline prominence to yesterday's meeting between Mr. Khalaf and Lebanese President Elias Sarkis.

Mr. Khalaf made his statement about an agreement after the meeting.

The commandos and the Lebanese authorities have disagreed over interpretation of the 1969 Cairo accord on protection of Palestinian refugees against possible Israeli attacks. They have also differed on the presence of guerrillas in the south.

Both issues are now said to have involved Lebanese, Palestinian and Syrian leaders.

A committee of representatives from the three sides is expected to meet within the next day or so to draw up a programme for the full implementation of the agreement.

The commandos said they have already named their representative on the committee and a meeting was held by the Lebanese authorities last night to choose delegates.

Newspapers in Beirut said Abu Jihad himself would head the Palestinian team on the committee. This would include delegates from the pro-Syrian Saiga group, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the "rejection front" opposed to a negotiated

Middle East settlement, and a major guerrilla organisation Fatah.

No details have been officially released about the new agreement.

But the independent paper An-Nahar said it provided for an immediate ceasefire and the stationing of Lebanese troops in "sensitive areas" in the south. These areas would constitute buffer zones between the combatants.

The next step would be Palestinian withdrawal to areas allowed under the Cairo agreement. These were identified by the same paper as Al Arqoub -- once dubbed by the Israelis as "Fatahland" -- on the slopes of Mount Hermon, and the Deir al-Ashayer-Yanta line, in western Bekaa.

A joint Lebanese-Syrian peace-keeping force will be in charge of protecting Palestinian refugee camps in the south, the paper said.

Mr. Khalaf, deputy to Yasser Arafat as head of the Fatah commando group, confirmed Tuesday that Lebanon, Syria and the guerrilla movement had reached agreement on ways to resolve controversial issues after calling on Lebanese President Elias Sarkis. The Lebanese authorities had differed over interpretation of the remaining cla-

uses of the 1969 Cairo accord on protection of refugee camps against possible Israeli attacks and guerrilla presence in the southern region bordering Israel.

Mr. Khalaf, in a statement quoted by Palestine News Agency Wafa, said President Sarkis had issued instructions to those concerned "to start working sessions which will determine the stages of implementing the remaining clauses of the Cairo agreement as soon as possible."

Mr. Khalaf also said President Sarkis had "responded fully to efforts we are undertaking" to implement the Cairo accord and other Arab summit resolutions.

The commando had earlier said after meeting former Lebanese Prime Minister Ra'ed Karameh and leftist politicians that the guerrillas were willing to apply the accord as per the interpretations agreed upon between Foreign Minister Fuad Butros and Syrian leaders. Syria forms the bulk of the 30,000-strong Arab peace-keeping force in Lebanon.

Premier Selim Al Hoss, who attended the meeting together with a senior Lebanese military officer and another commando representative, told reporters the talks covered the establishment of security in the troubled south.

Opposition leader plans coalition

Mrs. Bandaranaike expected to lose Sri Lankan polls today

COLOMBO, July 20 (R). — Sri Lanka opposition leader Junius Jayewardene today announced plans for a coalition government after his United National Party (UNP) wins tomorrow's general elections.

Most political observers here expect the UNP to defeat the ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) led by Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike.

But while the urban mood seems clearly in favour of the opposition it is difficult to gauge which way the rural areas will vote.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, 61, who is seeking a third term as prime minister, is fighting the election without the backing of her traditional allies the Communist Party and the Trotskyite Lanka Sama Samaja Party (LSSP). She has remained confident of victory, however. Campaigning for the elections, which has been marked by violence in which eight people were killed and 25 wounded, ended last night.

Voting takes place tomorrow and first results are expected late in the night with a final tally available on Friday.

The third major national grouping contesting the election, the first for seven years, is the three-party United Left Front (ULF) of the Communists and the LSSP.

Mr. Jayewardene, 70, meanwhile told a press conference at his home the island's problems needed a national approach, and that he would invite all parties to join him in a grand coalition.

He said he expected his party to win 90 to 100 of the 168 seats in the new parliament.

Mr. Jayewardene said that as Prime Minister he would take immediate steps to bring down the soaring cost of living and to reduce unemployment which is put as high as one-quarter of the work force.

He would also seek changes in the constitution for a presidential form of government with the president, who would be elected directly by the people, becoming head of state and head of government.

The prime minister and cabinet would remain and the president would have no legislative powers. Mr. Jayewardene described his model as similar to the French system.

He said he would consider devaluation of the Sri Lankan rupee as one of his first economic measures.

The rupee, which was revalued upwards by 20 per cent in March by the SLFP government, now sells on the black market here at 18 to \$1 against the official rate of 7.

The UNP leader also announced plans to set up a 518 square kms. free trade area where foreign investment would be encouraged in industry.

Mr. Jayewardene said this development would help solve Sri Lanka's foreign exchange and unemployment problems.

Mrs. Bandaranaike is now the world's only woman prime minister. She became the first woman to head a government in 1960.

Smith believes plan for limited suffrage still best course

SALISBURY, July 20 (R). — Premier Ian Smith believes that Rhodesia's moderate black nationalists can still be persuaded to accept a qualified form of majority rule, in spite of their public insistence on one-man-one-vote, government sources said here today.

But Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, one of the black leaders with whom Mr. Smith hopes to settle Rhodesia's future, called again today for universal suffrage. "The answer is clear," Mr. Sithole, leader of the African National Council, said. "It lies in majority rule based on one-man-one-vote."

Bishop Abi Muzorewa, leader of the United African National Council and the other main black leader living inside this breakaway colony, has also demanded an immediate handover of power to Rhodesia's black majority, and elections based on a universal franchise.

Government sources said that Mr. Smith, now seeking a renewed mandate from the mainly-white electorate, hopes to resurrect the key elements of the plan presented to him last year by Dr. Henry Kissinger, then the U.S. Secretary of State.

Government sources said today that Mr. Smith expects the Aug. 31 election will restore to his ruling Rhodesian Front Party the parliamentary strength needed to pass amendments to the constitution.

He lost command of the necessary two-thirds of parliament's votes when 12 rightwing rebels broke from the Rhodesian Front because they opposed his plans for a form of majority rule.

Government sources said that, if Mr. Smith wins, his bid for a settlement with the nationalists would probably include formation of a mainly-black council of ministers, responsible for most day-to-day domestic affairs, and a separate council of state, responsible for defence and foreign affairs, in which whites, Asians and people of mixed race would have an entrenched position.

Mr. Smith also believes that the nationalists are willing to negotiate a compromise on their demands for universal suffrage, government sources said.

Meanwhile, Rhodesian security forces said today 23 bla-

ck Africans, including women and children, were burned to death when nationalist guerrillas set fire to a bus this week.

An official communique said the victims were banded into the hut in a kraal near Mount Arwina in northeast Rhodesia on July 15 by nationalist attackers.

Local residents also reported more flights over the south by Israeli warplanes.

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The commandos said they have already named their representative on the committee and a meeting was held by the Lebanese authorities last night to choose delegates.

Villagers fight for right to return

TEL AVIV, July 20 (R). — Christian Arabs from northern Israel said today they would drop their claims to land farmed by Jewish settlers in return for permission to return to their home villages.

The Arabs, numbering about 200 families from the villages of Burum and Ikrit, were forced to leave their homes during the 1948 war by Zionists with an assurance that they would be allowed to return after the fighting stopped.

Since then they have waged a stubborn campaign against the refusal of successive Israeli governments to allow them back in case it should serve as a precedent for other Arab villagers displaced at the same time.

But the Arabs have long enjoyed the support of some Israeli liberals and after the recent election the new Religious Affairs Minister, Mr. Aharon Abu Hatzeira, said he would recommend to the cabinet that they be permitted to go home.

The villagers, who now live elsewhere in northern Israel, lay claim to 3,125 hectares of land in the Burum-Ikrit area near the Lebanese border.

About 825 hectares of this are under cultivation by Jewish settlers and it is their claim to this they are prepared to drop.

In its editorial today the influential Jerusalem Post came out in favour of the villagers, saying that after 30 years there was now a chance for a weight on the nation's conscience to be lifted.

U.N. recommended to admit Vietnam

UNITED NATIONS, New York, July 20 (AFP). — The Security Council today recommended by consensus the admission of Vietnam to membership of the United Nations.

The General Assembly is expected to pass the Security Council recommendation at the opening of its 20th session on Sept. 20.

Vietnam will be the 149th member of the United Nations.

Three previous membership applications by Vietnam were vetoed by the United States.

600 Moroccan troops fly into Mauritania

RABAT, July 20 (Agencies) — Morocco has airlifted 600 troops to the Mauritanian mining centre of Zouerate, in the Sahara, which was attacked three times this year by Polisario guerrillas based in Algeria, an authorised source said today.

The troops were flown to Zouerate as part of the mutual defence agreement concluded by the two countries last May.

A Mauritanian source said the soldiers made the trip on Monday and Tuesday in Hercules C-130 transport planes of the Moroccan air force.

This followed talks between King Hassan and Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Moulkass in Rabat on Saturday and Sunday.

The guerrillas staged their last attack on Zouerate, an iron ore centre, last Saturday. Mauritanian sources said the Polisario lost 37 dead. Four Mauritanian soldiers and one civilian were killed and a dozen people were wounded, the sources said.

The airlift of the Moroccan battalion to Zouerate would be the first direct intervention by Moroccan ground forces in Mauritania to help the much weaker Mauritanian army in fighting the guerrillas.

In Rabat informed sources said today that other Moroccan troop reinforcements had recently been moved into Mauritania.

Their final number might be as many as 1,500 -- the size of the recent expeditionary corps Morocco sent to Zaire's Shaba Province, sources said a fortnight ago, they said, several hundred Moroccan soldiers were drafted into the Mauritanian town of Ain Bentili on the Moroccan border in a bid to restrict Polisario strikes launched from the Algerian base of Tindouf on the Bir Mogrein region and the whole of Northern Mauritania.

Other sources pointed to recent visits to Senegal and Morocco by Mauritanian Foreign Minister Hamdi Ould Moulkass and military contacts between Mauritania and Mali, speculating that a defence front might be set up to police the Western Sahara.

It is also thought that Morocco and Mauritania may now consider establishing a unified military command or at least a coordination committee.

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The earthquake's scars are gone but political wounds are opening in Romania

By Sidney Weiland

BUCHAREST, July 19 (R). — The scars are hidden by boardings and grass grows over unmarked graves, but Romania's massive earthquake four months ago has left wounds of a deeper kind.

Superficially, Bucharest seems to have recovered. The city, once called the Paris of the Balkans, looked lush and green in the summer sunshine, and life is back to normal.

The shock waves produced a surge of patriotism. Rescue squads backed through rubble in a day-and-night search for survivors. President Nicolae Ceausescu, taking personal command, demanded harder work and sacrifices to overcome the catastrophe.

But since then, a reaction has set in. There is widespread grumbling over living standards, a seeming malaise among young people, and dissatisfaction over an austerity programme that promises a better life only to the next generation.

The weeks after the quake saw a tightening of ideological controls, a move to curb contacts with foreigners, a campaign to discourage potential emigrants, and a fight against corruption. Romanians say surveillance by the security police increased.

Mr. Ceausescu's popularity, boosted by the quake, has diminished. Intellectuals are privately critical of his growing personality cult.

Many Romanians are bitter over a clean-up operation which they suspect was rushed through so quickly it may have left people buried alive under collapsed buildings.

The Romanian leader, an austere communist with a passion for hard work, is blamed for insensitivity. By his orders, bulldozers were moved in rapidly to remove wreckage and distraught relatives searching for survivors found access barred.

Characteristically, Mr. Ceausescu barely slept in the week after the quake. Like the president, workers were ordered on to extra time to make up for production losses, and part of their wages was withheld to pay for reconstruction.

Whether or not the political climate after March was linked to the quake is unclear. Many ordinary Romanians, as well as experienced foreign observers, believe there was at least a psychological connection.

Today, a visitor strolling along the city's broad, leafy boulevards has to look hard for traces of the quake. But inside buildings, there are deep fissures. Walls, which look unscathed at first glance, are held up by timber supports.

Romanians believe the official death toll has been understated and applies only to bodies found. There is a widespread but unconfirmed belief that about 3,000 people were killed in Bucharest.

This is based on knowledge that between 20 and 30 large apartment blocks were totally or partially destroyed in one building, with 50 inhabitants only 12 were accounted for, dead or alive.

Mr. Ceausescu has said the quake will not affect fulfillment of the current five-year plan.

The economic upheaval failed to dim the president's enthusiasm for ambitious industrial projects. Since the quake, he has sanctioned major schemes that economists think will put a severe strain on Romania's already strapped resources.

To ensure adequate coaling coal for Romanian factories, the government is investing nearly \$60 million to exploit a

coal mine in the U.S. state of Virginia.

Plans are under way to import Canadian technology for a chain of 16 nuclear power stations. The first stage alone may cost Romania \$300 million.

The government is sweating heavily to build 100 short-haul VFW-614 passenger aircraft in Romania, under a deal with the West German-Dutch VFW-Foiker Company.

Another deal, still to be completed, calls for Romanian assembly-belt production of the British BAC 1-11 jetliner, already in service with the state-run Tarom Airlines.

The plans are intended to create a home-based aircraft industry and to provide a surplus of aircraft for sale to small Third World airlines.

Like the coal mine enterprise, the aviation projects are part of Mr. Ceausescu's grand design to make Romanian industry self-supporting and thus to provide safeguards in the event of a Soviet economic squeeze.

Mr. Ceausescu has moved slowly to improve living conditions, but foreign analysts now estimate that standards across the board are lower in Romania than in any other Soviet Bloc country, except for the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria, which used to be bottom of the Soviet Bloc living standards table, moved ahead of neighbouring Romania in the last year.

Bucharest authorities recently opened a smart new department store, Unirea, complete with escalators that introduce provincial customers to the hazards of big city life. But the range of goods is limited, and quality is poor. The clothing industry reserves its best products for export to the West. Low cost imports from China help make up domestic deficiencies.

The ruling Communist Party, acutely aware of rising expectations has promised a 30% rise in wages by 1980. Average industrial wages are about 2,000 lei (£100) a month; a medium quality man's suit costs half of that.

Foreign embassies are puzzled by police action since the earthquake that still makes many Romanians reluctant to visit them.

Police questioned visitors to the West German Embassy, and taxi drivers were ordered to deposit visitors to other Western embassies at least 50 metres away, apparently to facilitate surveillance, diplomats said.

The police activity coincided with a crack down against a small dissident group led by author Paul Goma, who collected about 200 signatures for a human rights petition earlier this year.

Goma admits many of his supporters signed only in the hope of getting exit permits to leave Romania, and has told friends: "I feel I've been used as a travel agent." Several signatories were quickly given permission to emigrate as the government tried to neutralise the dissident group.

The Goma group is believed to have little political significance, but informed sources say there exists another group of intellectuals concerned over human rights and strict curbs on foreign travel. So far they have stayed silent.

The government has had trouble also from a group of dissident Baptist clergy, who allege official discrimination against the proselytising activities of their sect. Several were called in for interrogation in May, and remain under close watch.

Informed sources say there is acute nervousness in government quarters because of a sharpened drive against bribery and corruption ordered by

Mr. Ceausescu following the earthquake.

There are traditional problems but Mr. Ceausescu's special anger was said to have been roused by discovery that corruption may have contributed to some of the quake's destruction.

Several major buildings were said to have had structural faults, due to corrupt diversion of funds otherwise intended to ensure greater safety in construction.

Romanian informants say rescue squads digging through rubble discovered documents revealing links between senior officials and corrupt elements.

Mr. Ceausescu has launched a powerful ideological movement to push his concept of Romania's "new man". This is aimed at young people acknowledged to be disillusioned and apathetic.

Children are being recruited into a new communist organisation called "falcons of the homeland" to "prepare them spiritually for the greater tasks they will take up in the future."

As part of the historical backdrop Mr. Ceausescu favours to demonstrate Latin Romania's independence from Russia and Rome and prompt the country's pantheon of heroes. So has Vlad the Impaler, better known as Dracula, now been restored to history books as a "knight of justice and freedom."

Third Circle Phantasmic By Omar Jawad

Peace this year.....

Now that the pace of Middle East peace-making is picking up once again, what with Messrs. Sadat and Begin ready to meet on Oct. 10 in Geneva and Mr. Begin off in Washington, I have turned my energies once again in finding a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. I have naturally found myself stumped by the very difficult problem of the West Bank, and after pondering it mightily, as my readers now realise, I ponder all things related to peace in the Holy Land. I have come up with some ideas that I would like to share.

It is clear that we have to solve the Palestinian issue and the status of the West Bank if there is to be any kind of real peace in the Middle East. What are our options? I think we really only have two. Either we change the West Bank's name and therefore do away with the problem of the West Bank, or we tackle the problem simply by making a deal with the United States to exchange the West Bank for New Jersey.

As for the first solution, it really is not a very good one, but it is the kind of thing that would win roaring approval at Arab League meetings, I am sure. We could call the West Bank something new and strange, such as Harmony Acres, and it would then be very much easier to solve the problem if the problem were one that had such a pleasant ring to it. It would also pull the rug out from under the Israeli argument that they have biblical claims to that land, because the bible says nothing about Harmony Acres.

The only thing that I personally don't like about this is that the Arabs would look pretty foolish declaring their support for the Harmony Acres Liberation Organisation (HALO), but then with time I suppose we could get used to anything.

The thing I like best about this solution is that it evades reality to an advanced degree, and thus I think it fits in well with what has happened in that area to date. I see this as a first phase only, and later we could make believe that the area never really existed at all, but was a figment of our rampant Arab political imagination.

The second solution is much more practical. You might think that swapping the West Bank for New Jersey is weird, but I think it makes much sense.

For starters, I know for a fact that it is one of America's long-term strategic goals to

somehow get rid of New Jersey, either by an exchange of territory such as this, or by using it as a test site for the new neutron bombs that are being developed by the U.S.

This swap arrangement would satisfy everybody. The Palestinians who would end up in New Jersey would be right near some American Indian sites, and thus the unity of the Third World struggling peoples would be preserved, and perhaps even enhanced.

The New Jerseians who would end up in Palestine would never realise that anything had happened to them, as they would still be living next door to three million Jewish people, only these would be in Israel instead of New York City.

The West Bankers who would all go to New Jersey would have their biggest single demand satisfied in one ingenious move -- they would no longer have so much trouble securing entry visas for their sons to go to the United States. This would simultaneously solve the traffic problems in front of the American embassy on Jabal Amman.

The West Bank and New Jersey are not only similar in size, but also in shape. Thus the exchange could be accompanied by an exchange of maps as well, though when people settle into their new homes they would have to always read their new maps in the mirror.

I can think of nothing that would make the American people become better friends with the Palestinians than if the Palestinians were to help the Americans get rid of New Jersey. This idea would not only solve the conflict in the Holy Land, but, by taking away New Jersey, it would also raise real estate values all around the east coast of the United States.

And with the rate of power failures in the U.S. and the Middle East, both populations could settle into their new environments quite naturally and comfortably. If a war were to break out in the Middle East, the New Jerseians would think it were gang warfare like they were used to in New York. If a West Banker were mugged in New Jersey, he or she would think it were just another beating from the Israeli occupation forces.

I think the possibility of exchanging the West Bank for New Jersey is our best hope for peace, and I think it has to be done before Oct. 10, because I'm not sure that New Jersey will last such a long time. Like they all say, this has to be the year for peace.

Things left unsaid

The most significant thing about Mr. Menachem Begin's press conference in Washington was what he failed to say, the absence of details of grudging non-concessions he was expected to announce such as partial withdrawal from Sinai and the Golan Heights, but none from the West Bank. No doubt President Carter's restraining influence was responsible for this fortunate denouement.

Of course, there was the old contradiction in Mr. Begin's position again: Israel is prepared for negotiations without preconditions, but will not talk to the PLO. One could sense what was left unsaid, the unwillingness to come to terms with the Palestinian problem or to commit Israel to the sort of withdrawals that would make a true peace viable, and consequently a preference for restricted bilateral agreements.

Nonetheless, a restrained Mr. Begin is better for all concerned that a Mr. Begin in his natural element spouting inflammatory nonsense. We only hope that the restraint will be reflected not only in his speech but in a more moderate Israeli position.

President Carter said none of the parties were as adamant as had been feared and that it was likely that the Geneva conference would resume by October. He has already worked some magic on Mr. Begin. He will have to be deft with the wand indeed if he is to extract more substantive concessions from the Likud leader before the conference reconvenes. So far the roots of the Middle East crisis have not been touched, but a start has been made in the right direction.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

The Jordanian daily Al Ra'i Wednesday commented on the fact that Israel pretends it is powerful when in reality it is dependent on U.S. support.

AL RA'I said that during Premier Menachem Begin's visit to the USA, Israel would try to convince the American president that it has an effect on the decision-making process in the White House and that it is ready to face any White House pressure by waging a propaganda campaign inside the USA. The paper said that this Israeli pretense to power ought not to be believed by American officials -- in particular by President Carter -- for the American aid sent to Israel, without indulging in statistics, and the American armaments and American support, are all known. The paper added that there are also historical testimonies which can witness to such an Israeli power pretence, these testimonies are statements by Israeli leaders.

certain necessary armaments and Premier Golda Meir welcomed Security Council Resolution 338, before any Arab country agreed to it.

The paper continued that even Mr. Menachem Begin, at that time a Knesset member and a traditional anti-peace campaigner, did not object to the cease fire and justified his approval by saying that history has proved twice before, when Israel was created and when Israel occupied Sinai and the Gaza Strip, and that history proves once again that an agreement between the two superpowers is capable of bringing about what must be!

The paper concluded that the current Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Begin, realises that the EEC, the USSR and all countries of the world object to Israeli occupation of Arab lands and that the four fighter-planes which the head of the Israeli air force prides himself in possessing are American weapons. The Israeli prime minister also realises that his country is suffering from an economic crisis, and also realises the consequences of the Israeli air force prides himself in possessing are American weapons.

According to the paper, the day the fire ceased in the October war, Gen. Sharon arrogantly said that the world conspired against Israel and has forbidden it to "eat the fruit of its victory." Gen. Dayan, Minister of Defence at the time, said that the cease fire decision came just in time because Israel had run out of

the economic upheaval failed to dim the president's enthusiasm for ambitious industrial projects. Since the quake, he has sanctioned major schemes that economists think will put a severe strain on Romania's already strapped resources.

To ensure adequate coaling coal for Romanian factories, the government is investing nearly \$60 million to exploit a

coal mine in the U.S. state of Virginia.

Plans are under way to import Canadian technology for a chain of 16 nuclear power stations. The first stage alone may cost Romania \$300 million.

The government is sweating heavily to build 100 short-haul VFW-614 passenger aircraft in Romania, under a deal with the West German-Dutch VFW-Foiker Company.

Another deal, still to be completed, calls for Romanian assembly-belt production of the British BAC 1-11 jetliner, already in service with the state-run Tarom Airlines.

The plans are intended to create a home-based aircraft industry and to provide a surplus of aircraft for sale to small Third World airlines.

Like the coal mine enterprise, the aviation projects are part of Mr. Ceausescu's grand design to make Romanian industry self-supporting and thus to provide safeguards in the event of a Soviet economic squeeze.

Mr. Ceausescu has moved slowly to improve living conditions, but foreign analysts now estimate that standards across the board are lower in Romania than in any other Soviet Bloc country, except for the Soviet Union.

Bulgaria, which used to be bottom of the Soviet Bloc living standards table, moved ahead of neighbouring Romania in the last year.

Bucharest authorities recently opened a smart new department store, Unirea, complete with escalators that introduce provincial customers to the hazards of big city life. But the range of goods is limited, and quality is poor. The clothing industry reserves its best products for export to the West. Low cost imports from China help make up domestic deficiencies.

The ruling Communist Party, acutely aware of rising expectations has promised a 30% rise in wages by 1980. Average industrial wages are about 2,000 lei (£100) a month; a medium quality man's suit costs half of that.

Foreign embassies are puzzled by police action since the earthquake that still makes many Romanians reluctant to visit them.

Police questioned visitors to the West German Embassy, and taxi drivers were ordered to deposit visitors to other Western embassies at least 50 metres away, apparently to facilitate surveillance, diplomats said.

Afghanistan launches into a socialist one-party system

By Qamar Hasnain

JEDDAH, (Geminil) — Afghanistan recently called a constituent assembly (Loya Jirga) of 351 representatives, eight of them women, to draft a national constitution. The session was attended by 221 elected and 130 nominated members from among the country's workers, farmers, intellectuals and others.

They included 38 top officials, ministers, professors, engineers and economists. Under the 131-article constitution Pushtu and Persian are to serve as the country's official languages.

An electoral law, paving the way for general elections, has yet to be formulated. Political activity will resume on a single party system. The party will be called Hezbe Inqilab Mellil (National Revolutionary Party).

A unicameral parliament (Melli Jirga) is scheduled to convene on November 22, 1979, giving the party time to become organised and for suitable candidates to seek nomination to contest elections to a four-year parliament.

All Afghans over 18 will be eligible to vote. The age limit for parliamentary membership will be 25. The parliament will meet each year for four months at a stretch.

While the parliament is in recess, the government may enact laws in an emergency, but they will be reviewed and approved by the parliament when it re-assembles.

Though 99 per cent of the population is listed as Muslim -- the rest being mainly Hindu and Sikh of Indian origin -- the country will not be called an Islamic republic. The constituent assembly was told Af-

ghanistan will adopt socialist principles, to eliminate class differences and to promote social justice -- without calling itself a people's democratic republic.

The constitution vests formidable powers in President Sardar Mohammad Daoud Khan, a brother-in-law of King Mohammad Zahir Shah, whom he ousted in 1963. He is head of state, chief executive, commander of the armed forces and leader of the country's only political organisation.

He is empowered to appoint judges to the supreme court, make war, sue for peace, proclaim a state of emergency, initiate national policies, appoint ambassadors and one or more vice presidents. The president can be impeached by the parliament on a charge of treason.

Freedom of expression is guaranteed, along with the freedom to travel at home and abroad. No Afghan accused of a crime may be extradited; torture and discrimination are prohibited.

There is to be equality before the law; no one is considered guilty unless proved so through a legal process. These and related rights and privileges may be curtailed only in the interest of national security.

Primary education is compulsory and free. Land holdings are subject to ceilings. Newspapers and major printing works can only be owned by nationals of the country.

Big industries are to be nationalised: mines, forests, telecommunications, printing works, radio, T.V. land transport, banks, insurance companies, distribution of foodgrains. Conscription will apply to all Afghans of prescribed ages.

Landlocked Afghanistan is surrounded by Iran, Soviet Union and Pakistan. Relations with Pakistan remain sour over the Pakhtoon issue. The fierce Pathans inhabit the common border dividing the two countries.

Even in the heyday of British power, they were not completely subdued. Since Britain left the subcontinent and it was divided into Pakistan and India, Afghanistan has pressed its claim over the disputed territory, generating intermittent disorders in the frontier region.

Most of Afghanistan's imports and exports go through Karachi, Pakistan's principal port. The Afghans regard these facilities as vulnerable to pressure.

Whenever tension between neighbours rises, Afghanistan accuses Pakistan of exerting pressure by delaying its goods. Encouraged by Iran, Afghanistan has now launched an ambitious railway system, which, apart from serving as a link with the railways in Asia and Europe, will lessen Afghanistan's dependence on Pakistan.

At present goods are unloaded at Karachi and carried by rail to Peshawar. Road transport takes them to Kabul. The new project is certain to start political rivalry between Iran and the Soviet Union. The billion dollar line will link Meshed in Iran with Herat and Kandahar in Afghanistan -- with a branch line connecting Kandahar with Kabul.

Afghanistan -- area 250,000 sq. miles, population 17.5 million -- has a per capita income of \$85 and a GNP of \$1.4 billion, about 72 per cent of which comes from agriculture. Fields of natural gas in the north are being developed with Soviet assistance.

There are large but unexploited coal and iron deposits alongside chromite and beryl; lapis lazuli of world renowned quality. Exports of fruit, karakul skins, natural gas, wool and carpets total about \$82 million a year.

Imports of foodgrains, textiles, petroleum products, machinery and vehicles, chemicals and rubber manufactures, amount to roughly \$120 million. Trading partners are USSR, U.S., Britain, Japan, West Germany, India and Pakistan.

Divided by tribal loyalties and mountainous terrain, the Afghan people still live as their forefathers had done for centuries. The country has been exposed to repeated foreign intervention, though not total conquest, interspersed with tribal rebellions and bloody royal successions.

King Mohammad Zahir Shah succeeded his assassinated father in 1933 at the age of 19. He remained a prisoner of his uncles and cousins, including Sardar Mohammad Daoud Khan. He shook off their influence in 1963 and presented his people with their first ever democratic constitution.

But the king was then overthrown in a coup led by Daoud Khan, which cost nearly 40 lives. Daoud Khan has since put down with an iron hand any insurrection against his regime's reformist policies. He has also ousted from the government and the army all those who had earlier joined forces with him in the coup of 1973.

Afghanistan has now launched a bold experiment. Progress will be watched with interest in the Third World.

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Prince Hassan looks into labour problems

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday afternoon visited the Ministry of Labour and listened to an explanation from the Minister about his ministry's accomplishments and future programmes to promote the Jordanian labour market.

Prince Hassan also heard a report from Mr. Ajlouni about the work of the three committees studying changes in the labour market. They deal with emigration of Jordanian labour and foreign labour.

danian workers Wednesday suggested several measures to restrict such emigration.

It proposed the construction of houses for workers, the implementation of the proposed social security law, a prices policy linked to wages, increased work opportunities and the use of untapped labour resources.

The committee also calls for the conclusion of a number of agreements with Arab countries to regulate the flow of Jordanian labour.

68.35% PASS TAWJIHI EXAM

AMMAN (JNA). — A total of 11,843 out of 17,327 students -- or 68.35 per cent -- have successfully passed the tawjih secondary school examinations for 1977, Minister of Education Dr. Abdul Salam Majali announced at a press conference here Wednesday morning.

The success rate was 69.9 per cent in the arts stream; 69.5 in the scientific stream; 66.4 in commerce; 59.1 in agriculture; and 79.1 in the industrial stream.

Cabinet names team for U.N. desert meet

AMMAN (JNA). — The Cabinet, presided over by acting Prime Minister Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Wednesday named a delegation to represent Jordan at the United Nations conference on deserts in Nairobi on Aug. 20 to Sept. 9.

The delegation will consist of the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Ghazi, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Jordan, Mr. Sobkassen, and the Director of Studies at the Ministry of Agriculture, Mr. Mahmoud Jundi.

The conference will discuss ways of combatting the encroachment of the desert.

ILO deputy arrives to talk labour

AMMAN (JNA). — The Assistant Director General of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), Dr. Saleh Burqan, arrived here Wednesday on a four-day official visit to confer with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan and competent authorities on the labour situation.

Dr. Burqan said he carries with him a message from ILO Director General Francis Blanchard to Prince Hassan in appreciation of his address to the 38th session of the ILO held in June.

Dr. Burqan stated he will make official contacts with Minister of Labour Issam Ajlouni, his under-secretary Dr. Jawad Anani, representatives of the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions and businessmen to study programmes under implementation or to be implemented by the organisation here.

Entry to Syria tightened

AMMAN (JNA). — New security measures governing the entry of foreign nationals into Syria came into effect yesterday.

Instructions were issued by the Interior Ministry, which made it compulsory for foreign travellers to report to the nearest police station within 24 hours of arrival in the country.



His Highness Crown Prince Hassan recites prayers at the tomb of the late King Abdullah Wednesday. The King was assassinated in Al Aqsa mosque 26 years ago. (JNA photo).

Leading figures visit King Abdullah's tomb

AMMAN (JNA). — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan paid a visit to the tomb of His Majesty the late King Abdullah Wednesday morning on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of his martyrdom.

Prince Hassan placed a wreath on the tomb and recited prayers.

He afterwards visited the tomb of His Majesty the late King Talal.

Acting Prime Minister, Dr. Abdul Salam Majali, Speaker of the Upper House Bahjat Talhoumi, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zeid were other visitors to the late king's tomb along with members of the cabinet, senators, top-ranking army officers and high officials. They also paid a visit to the tomb of the late King Talal.

North Yemeni military team arrives here

AMMAN (JNA). — A North Yemeni military delegation arrived here Wednesday for a short visit to inspect military installations and acquaint themselves with training techniques.

The delegation, led by Lt.-Col. Ahmad Ali Fakih, Director of the Commander-in-Chief's Office, was accompanied by the head of Jordan's military mission in the Yemen Arab Republic.

It was received on arrival at the airport by the director of military training, top ranking army officers and the North Yemeni ambassador here.

C-in-C confers with head of Italian air academy

AMMAN (JNA). — The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zeid Ibn Shaker, Wednesday conferred with the Commander of the Italian Air Academy, Gen. Andrea Ninka, on military matters.

Gen. Ninka, who is heading an Italian military delegation on a five-day visit to Jordan, presented a token gift to Sharif Zeid.

The delegation, which arrived here Saturday, has already visited two air bases and front-line positions, as well as attending a military tattoo Tuesday evening.

Prince Hassan opens Building Materials Research Centre

By a Jordan Times staff correspondent

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday opened one of the less well-known sections of the Royal Scientific Society -- the Building Materials Research Centre, which has been doing a great deal of pioneering work in the construction field.

Speaking at the opening, the Crown Prince said that Jordan has succeeded in the past few years to participate in scientific research work and prove it is capable of achieving great feats.

Jordan's geographical position in the region and its high scientific standards have enabled it to digest modern technology for its own benefit and that of its neighbours, he added.

He expressed the hope that the RSS will be capable of assuming its role alongside other scientific institutions in preparing for a number of scientific conferences in November.

"We hope the forthcoming conferences will help find ways to exploit science for the benefit of man and help determine priorities for each country according to its needs," he stated.

"Setting up such research centres and organising scientific meetings require great efforts and much money," Prince Hassan continued.

He finally thanked West Germany for all its help. With such help, he stressed, the RSS will continue to promote scientific activity for the benefit of mankind.

Prince Hassan later inspected the various sections of the centre and was briefed on their work.

Dual function

The Building Materials Research Centre (BMRC), like most RSS units, has a dual function. It aims to be a vehicle for the transfer of technology from the industrialised states into Jordan and the Arab World, and it also seeks to generate indigenous Jordanian and Arab solutions to local technical problems in its field.

chical problems in its field.

The BMRC has come into its own over the past year, and it already has several breakthroughs under its young belt. Its most dramatic contributions to the local building industry have been the development of soil-emulsion blocks and fired-clay bricks, both of which have proved to be popular with Jordanians and well suited to the climate here.

It has also sought successfully to help the residents of the Jordan Valley build their traditional mud-and-clay houses in a manner that makes the houses more durable in the face of

to produce the bricks is now being opened, with the BMRC technology offered free of charge.

According to Dr. Ruhi Sharif, Director of the centre, the rationale behind the BMRC is to make use of the abundant local raw materials that are used by the building industry. These materials include, most notably, limestone, chalks, sand, gypsum, granite, kaolin, feldspar, bitumen and clays.

Prefab housing

Jordan requires some 20,000 housing units per year (let alone non-residential buildings) and the local industry is hard

200 quarries, a function that had been done by the Natural Resources Authority.

It also carries out non-destructive testing of the strength of concrete, using ultrasonic testers, and has also introduced into the local building scene methods to test the strength of concrete much more quickly than had been done before.

Part of the BMRC's success to date is due to the fact that it has been able to combine these routine testing services with its research and development work, with a keen eye on how its expertise can be put to the immediate service of the local building industry.

Low profile

The emphasis is on applied research and problem-solving, and Dr. Sharif adds that he prefers to maintain something of a low profile in order not to raise people's expectations too high.

"We prefer to underpromise on what we can do," he says, so that people are not disappointed, for one of the main obstacles he sees in the way of the RSS in general is that many people expect such an institution to be able to come up with instant solutions to very complex problems.

The BMRC was set up initially in 1970 as part of the Ministry of Public Works, but in March 1976 it moved over into the RSS where it coupled with the RSS unit that had then been working on prefabricated housing research.

The new building that has now been opened is filled with sophisticated testing and measuring equipment, most of which has been provided by West Germany and Switzerland.

The BMRC has been designated a "regional" centre by the Arab League, though Dr. Sharif says that for the moment it is concentrating its research on the building industry in Jordan. But, as with most other units in the RSS, it is likely that technological capabilities developed in Jordan will be transferable to the other Arab states virtually intact.

The centre is funded by several government bodies within Jordan, the Arab League, and through technical aid support from Western states. Its staff is now growing to its target of 30 people, among whom will be 15 engineers.



Dr. Ruhi Sharif points to some of the miniature soil, clay and concrete block samples used in the work of the Building Materials Research Centre. (J.T. photo).

winter rains. BMRC engineers simply added an asphalt emulsion to the mud-and-clay building material, with the result that the farmers can still build inexpensive homes that are cool in the summer and much stronger to make it through the winter months.

Another technique adds cement and bitumen to the clay and mud mixture, to produce the soil-emulsion blocks that are proving so popular.

The fired-clay bricks that the BMRC has introduced into Jordan are eight times stronger than traditional concrete blocks, and allow the construction of a three-storey building where only one would have risen before.

As the clay for the bricks is found locally in abundant quantities, a commercial plant

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Multi-Fibre negotiations face possible breakdown

GENEVA, July 20 (AFP). — Negotiations to renew the Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) have almost broken down, Tran van Thinh, spokesman for the European Economic Community at the talks here, said today.

He told a press conference that the EEC was meeting "desperate resistance from a hard core of exporting countries." He did not name those states, but it was believed in diplomatic quarters that they were India, Pakistan and Egypt.

Mr. Tran declared that the exporting countries "were scolded by the community safeguard measures taken recently in Brussels."

Referring to the chief exporting countries (Hong Kong and South Korea), which were willing to aid the EEC, Mr. Tran said that they refused to be the only ones to foot the bill.

"If this trend continued," Mr. Tran added, "there was a risk of deadlock." But he said that this was not "dramatic

because the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) textile committee could still meet before the expiry of the Multi-Fibre Agreement at the end of the year."

The current negotiations are taking place outside the committee meetings as the official discussions were adjourned on July 7.

It was considered in diplomatic quarters that the developing countries' opposition, announced by Mr. Tran, had badly shaken negotiations which already appeared to have a great deal of friction.

An agreement was reached just before last week-end between the European commission on the one hand and the United States and Japan on the other. This was due to serve as a basis for negotiations with the other trading partners.

The discussions which the United States had been asked to hold with the developing countries appeared then to be going well. The difficulties with the Common Market seemed to be the most serious. France, Britain and the Netherlands, which regarded the text of the agreement as "not firm enough", had expressed definite doubts about it.

Now, not only do the negotiations with Third World countries appear to be compromised, but differences of opinion within the EEC have not been smoothed over.

It was in fact learned from reliable sources here today that only two member-states (West Germany and Denmark) still approved the text negotiated by the European commission in Geneva.

OECD paints gloomy economic picture

PARIS, July 20 (AFP). — There will be no improvement in the general economic situation in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) over the coming twelve months, the 24-nation body said here.

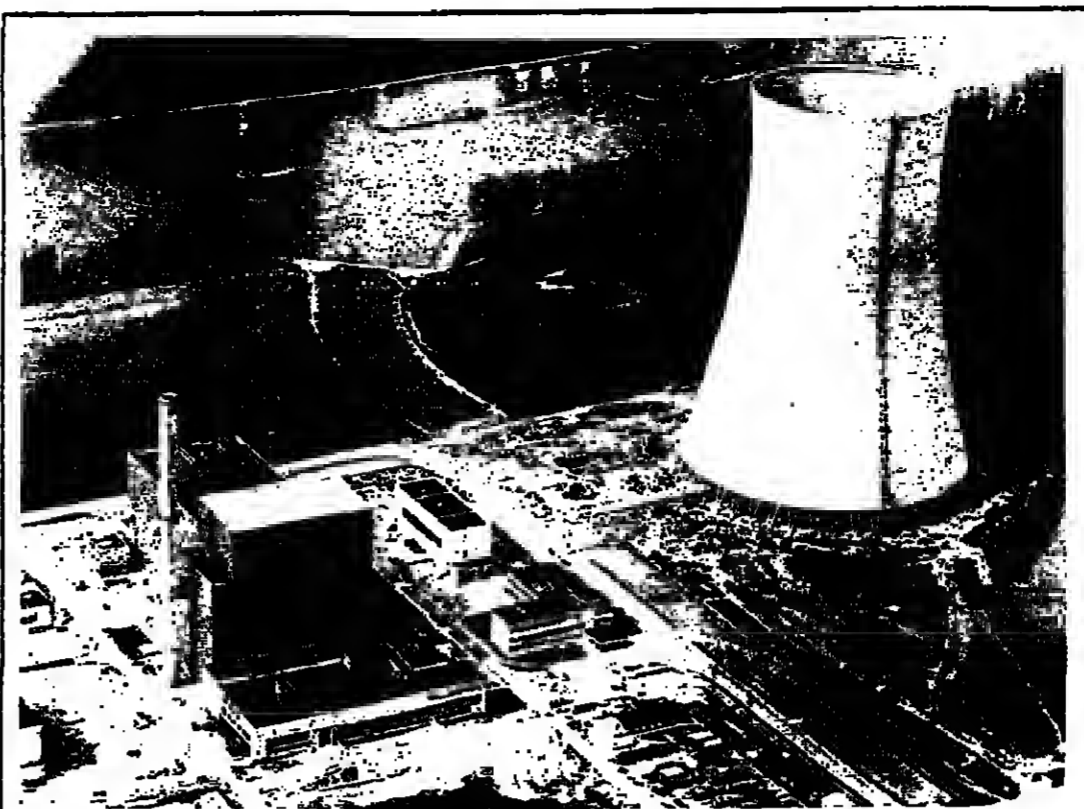
Inflation and unemployment will remain high.

The OECD expects the annual growth rate to be 4.5 per cent in the second half of this year as compared with 4.25 per cent in the first half, to be followed by a rate of only four per cent in first half 1978.

The OECD said the new burst of consumer price rises in recent months was largely related to temporary difficulties, mainly higher food prices. There should be a slowdown in the second half of this year while consumer prices were forecast to be rising at an annual rate of around 7.5 per cent on average in the first half of 1978.

"Mirroring developments in demand, unemployment in the OECD area is likely to remain on a plateau of around five per cent, falling in the United States but with a rise in nearly all other member countries except Japan", the OECD said.

A rate of five per cent represents about 15 million unemployed, excluding Portugal and Turkey, whose jobless statistics are only sketchy. If these two member countries were added, the figure would be around 17 million.



EXTENSION GO-AHEAD FOR RHINE NUCLEAR POWER STATION -- Phillipsburg nuclear power station, an aerial view of which is seen here, is on the banks of the Rhine north of Karlsruhe, Germany. Operational trials of the 900-megawatt reactor are to start in August, with the power station working at capacity from early next year. A partial go-ahead has now been given by the Interior Ministry for the construction of a second 900-megawatt power reactor to go alongside the first. What with protest movements and court appeals Block II at Phillipsburg is the first nuclear power project to be granted planning permission for months. What clinched the outcome was probably the agreement undertaken by a French company to dispose of Phillipsburg's radioactive waste until the mid-nineties. This waste disposal arrangement has dispelled the worst misgivings of local campaigners against the extension.

Japan considers options for growth

TOKYO, July 20 (R). — Japanese Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda said today he would adopt deflationary measures next month if the country's economy failed to pick up.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Sunao Sonoda said the prime minister told the policy committee of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party that the economy needed stimulating to increase the number of imports.

This would ward off the growing foreign criticism of Japan's massive trade surplus, he said.

Yesterday the Finance Ministry here said Japan's visible trade surplus for June was \$1.49 billion, more than twice as much as the May figure of \$640 million.

Mr. Fukuda said he would make a decision on deflationary moves after his visit to Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Burma early next month.

The Chairman of the Policy Committee, Mr. Toshio Komoto, later told a press conference he had urged the prime minister to adopt sweeping deflationary measures, including a supplementary budget.

This would ensure Japan reached its 6.7 per cent economic growth rate for 1977 and would also encourage domestic demand, thus increasing imports, he said.

Some bankers believe the best way to achieve this would be to allow the yen to rise in value. But the Director General of Japan's Economic Planning Agency, Mr. Tadashi Kurarai, said today this would harm some sections of industry, especially small firms.

Last year Japan's trade surplus with the United States was \$5.5 billion and with the European Common Market it was \$4.2 billion.

Bundesbank intervenes to prop sinking dollar

FRANKFURT, West Germany, July 20 (R). — The dollar dropped to a new low on the foreign exchange market here today and the West German Central Bank (Bundesbank) intervened to prop up the rate.

In nervous trading, the dollar fell to 2,2582 marks from its opening rate of 2,2650 and dealers said they expected the currency to weaken further during the day.

The continuing fall of the U.S. unit followed the drop of the dollar yesterday to its lowest level since July 1973 during the Watergate crisis.

Sterling and most other currencies were largely unchanged. In London, the dollar traded below 2,2600 marks in fairly active selling this morning. The U.S. currency was hovering around that level after falling to 2,2580 marks at one stage.

Dealers said the market was very nervous with Middle East orders identified as the source of some of the selling.

They said there was no official U.S. desire to intervene and prevent the dollar's slide.

Trans-Alaskan pipeline reopens after third closure this month

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, July 20 (R). — Oil began flowing through the trans-Alaska pipeline tonight after emergency repairs to a damaged vent which had caused the pipeline to be shut down for the third time in a month.

The pipeline's operators said the repairs had been completed on a main line check-valve 37 kms. south of Prudhoe Bay. A construction vehicle rammed the valve during an earth-filling.

At an Atlantic Richfield (ARCO) flow station at Prudhoe Bay, the potentially dangerous situation was averted when a hydrocarbon sensor detected an oil leak and the safety system was activated, preventing an explosion.

ARCO spokesman Tom Brennan said the station was shut down and another flow station took over. Only about 40 to 50 barrels were spilled, he added.

The \$8 billion pipeline began carrying oil from the Prudhoe Bay field on June 20.

Before the latest shutdown, crude oil had been flowing for only 18 hours after a 10-day halt which resulted from a fire and explosion on July 8. A pump station was destroyed, a technician was killed and five were injured in the blast.

Oil seems plentiful, the sea's waves are calm but politics is hazardous in the Falklands

By Andrew Graham-Yooll

LONDON, (Gemin) — President Jimmy Carter accidentally put his finger on a remote but controversial topic when he called on the U.S. Congress to take urgent, long-term measures to cut fuel consumption and save energy resources. The secondary issue, but a neoteric one no less, was the Anglo-Argentine dispute over the Falkland Islands.

The report Carter based his doom speech on was produced by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) this time in the role of conspiring to detect oil fields.

Part of the CIA report not used by Carter, but leaked to pressure groups concerned with keeping the Falklands British, referred to the possible oil reserves on the continental shelf on which the islands lie. The subject got less attention in Washington because it was far removed from the "gas-guzzling" consumers Carter was trying to curb.

The islands, occupied by Britain since January 1833 and claimed by Argentina ever since, have had periods of political indifference and peaks of fashion. The oil issue promises to make the present stage one of resumed interest.

Argentina and Britain were ordered to solve their wrangle in the early sixties by the United Nations Decolonisation Committee, but the dispute

over the islands sovereignty lingers on. Britain has said it will not hand over the Hebridean-like archipelago, which Argentina calls Malvinas, without the consent of the nearly 2,000 islanders.

The latest attempt to advance in the talks on the future of the islands, 300 miles off Argentina's southern Atlantic coastline and 7,000 miles from Britain, took place in February, when Ted Rowlands, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, visited Port Stanley, the islands' capital, and held talks with members of Argentina's military government in Buenos Aires.

Two days after the Carter speech, The Wall Street Journal reminded readers that the CIA report contained nothing that was not already public knowledge. The report on world energy shortage had been drawn up at the request of former CIA chief James Schlesinger, who now heads the Carter energy team.

Indeed, it was a report by the Royal Dutch Shell oil group in 1971, to the then Argentine Army chief of staff, indicating the existence of possible large oil resources, that started the ball rolling.

The report was at first kept secret, but later leaked by the army to nationalist circles, and the phrase "new Kuwait" entered political jargon. It reentered the British press after the Carter speech. Another es-



imate was that the Falklands' reserves might be three times those of the North Sea.

A seismic study conducted in 1973-74, singled out the Malvinas Basin, the Burwood Bank, Falkland Plateau and San Jorge Basin as the areas most likely to contain reserves in commercial quantities. The Malvinas Basin is tipped as the most promising of the four areas, followed by the Falkland Plateau. There is disagreement on the other two.

Much of the report is based on the Shell findings and on the more recent research by a team of geologists of the University of Birmingham who searched the archipelago consisting of two main islands and 200 smaller ones, making up a land area of 4,700 square miles.

The sovereignty dispute has in the past hampered most exploration efforts, but the world situation, Carter's scare speech and changing political events are encouraging oil companies to hold some optimism about the possibility of future opportunities to enter the area.

At present the islands are known to have several resources, not only oil. The waters are rich in alginates, investment into which has been postponed because of political uncertainties. Lord Shackleton's mission in January 1976, to determine the island's economic potential, pointed out that the islands had a commercial future, but cooperation should be sought between Britain and Argentina, to exploit both the oil and the off-shore fishing possibilities.

Lord Shackleton warned it was "important to recognise the nationalistic policy that Argentina has held with regard to development of oil resources". He indicated that this could be dealt with by treaty.

More difficult for Britain to handle was Argentina's "history of invitations to oil companies and subsequent dismissals and takeovers" which would deter the big corporations.

It is this erratic past that the United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee, lobbying to keep the islands British, is pointing to in its demands that the islanders ("Kelpers") are given full support by the British government. The committee claims that adequate development of the islands could solve Britain's balance of payments problem in the next ten years.

But politics would appear to be in the way of the islands' development for some time to come. And even if Britain and Argentina could solve their century and a half dispute, solutions would not come overnight.

Italy records payment surplus in June

ROME, July 20 (AFP). — Italy recorded its first monthly payments surplus of the year in June thanks to tourist earnings and a seasonal drop in imports, official figures showed today.

The Finance Ministry reported a surplus of 350 billion lire (about \$425 million), which reduced the overall deficit for the first half of the year to 1,700 billion lire (nearly \$2 billion).

Italy had a deficit of 2,400 billion lire (\$2.8 billion) in the first half of 1976.

The ministry said Italy's official foreign exchange reserves stood at about \$6 billion at the end of last month.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

Following are official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

Saudi riyal	82.5	81.6
Lebanese pound	107.5	106.8
Syrian pound	80.9	81.3
Iraqi dinar	940	948
Kuwaiti dinar	1137	1141
Egyptian pound	467	477
Libyan dinar	740	739
UAE dirham	83.5	84.8
U.K. sterling	308	306
U.S. dollar	330	332
German mark	140.3	140.7
French franc	67	67.3
Swiss franc	132.3	132.7
Italian lira (per every 100)	34.7	37.4

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies against the dollar at the close of inter-bank trading on the London Foreign Exchange Market yesterday. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling	= 1.7204 / 05	U.S. dollars
One dollar	= 2.2805 / 16	West German marks
	2.4132 / 42	Dutch guilders
	2.3969 / 79	Swiss francs
	35.17 / 20	Belgian francs
	481.70 / 90	French francs
	281.35 / 50	Italian lire
	354.65 / 80	Japanese yen
	3.1105 / 40	Swedish crowns
	5.1910 / 40	Norwegian crowns
	5.9040 / 70	Danish crowns

WALL STREET REPORT

The New York Stock Exchange held fairly firm on Wednesday after its sharply higher performance earlier in the week. The industrial average climbed more than four points in the morning, before setting back to gain one.

Chemicals were strong: Dupont gained 1-3/8 at 122-3/8, Union Carbide 1/4 at 59-5/8. Montanso was off 2-1/8 at 67-3/4.

Among oil shares, Atlantic Richfield was off 1-1/4 at 59, and in the gold mines Newmont Mining Corp. was off two points at 21-3/4.

Airlines were slightly up, while computers lost ground. IBM lost 1-7/8 at 273, Control Data 3/8 at 22-1/2.

At the close, the industrial average shows at 820.40, a gain of 0.97; Transp at 239.48, a gain of 0.97; utilities at 118.58, a gain of 0.29. 29,400,000 shares changed hands, of which 4,390,000 during the last hour.

LONDON MARKET REPORT

Share prices declined Wednesday but government bonds were up to 1/4 point higher in thin trading, dealers said. Fears of a rise in the minimum lending rate appeared to fade they said.

At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 5.1 at 441.2.

Equity leaders were up to 9p lower. Australians were mixed. Among U.S. stocks IBM rose 1-1/8 point and General Motors gained 1/4. Canadian issues were mixed with Alcan up 1/2, Hindsons Bay down 1/8 and ICI 1/2 point higher.

Gold shares were mixed. Courtaulds, which said it was cutting spending this year, was down 9p. Glaxo lost 5p, while Boots, ICI, GEC, and Thorn dropped 4p. Banks lost up to 5p.

Against the trend, Lucas had a net gain of a penny while Unilever rose 2p and Phillips Lamps gained 10p.

Among oils, B.P. rose 4p and Shell lost a penny, while Oil Exploration lost 5p.

Price of gold closed in London Wednesday at \$1449/02.

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First two vessels arrive for Suez Canal expansion project

PORT SAID, Suez Canal, July 20 (R). The first batch of two vessels which will be used to widen and deepen part of the Suez Canal arrived in the Bitter Lakes area today, Suez Canal authority officials said.

The ships are the tug Abeille 15 and the dredger Jean Rigal. Chairman, Mr. Mashhour Ahmad Mashhour, and a group of French firms worth \$46.5 million in hard currency plus 7.5 Egyptian pounds for the project.

The project, to be carried out between kilometres 101 and 109 in the central sector of the canal, involves widening and deepening the waterway and establishing a new navigational course to the West of the present one.

The project will take 33 months to complete.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Aborigines take legal action

* CANBERRA, July 20 (AFP). — Australian aborigines have started legal action to prevent the mining and export of uranium in Australia. In a writ issued yesterday, the President of the Aboriginal Legal Service, Paul Coe, sought an injunction against "the Commonwealth of Australia" restraining it from mining or exporting uranium and oil. The writ also seeks damages of 20,000 million Australian dollars each from Australia and Britain for alleged loss of lands "unlawfully and illegally" plundered.

Moscow reports rise in industrial output

* MOSCOW, July 20 (R). — Soviet industrial output rose by nearly six per cent in the first six months of this year. According to a preliminary report published in Pravda today. The party newspaper reported output growth of 5.7 per cent, compared with the first six months of 1976, exceeded the planned increase by one-tenth of one per cent. Government capital investment stood at 23,600 million roubles (\$18,700 million), a rise of six per cent over the first half of last year, the report said.

مركز الصناعات

Iraq, Kuwait pull back from disputed border

KUWAIT, July 20 (R). — Iraqi and Kuwaiti troops along the disputed border between the two countries today began withdrawing to prearranged positions under an agreement reached by a joint border commission yesterday. Kuwaiti Interior Ministry officials said here.

The Arab League in 1961, the officials added.

The disengagement -- as the withdrawal was being officially described here -- meant that troops, now camped in territory claimed by the other country, would return behind the line.

The troops were withdrawing 1 km. behind a line set by

The move will allow the formation of a joint minister-

ial committee to delimitate the border and end the dispute.

The problem came into the open in 1962 when a former ruler of Iraq, Gen. Abdul Karim Qassem, declared that Kuwait was part of Iraq. The state gained full independence from Britain in 1961.

The Kuwaiti officials said today's withdrawals were agreed on at a meeting in the Kuwaiti border town of Abdali. The meeting was attended by Kuwaiti Interior Ministry Under Secretary Maj. Gen. Abdul Latif Al Thuwaini and the governor of the Iraqi Province of Basra, they said.

A special committee formed by the two sides at yesterday's meeting was supervising the withdrawals, the officials added.

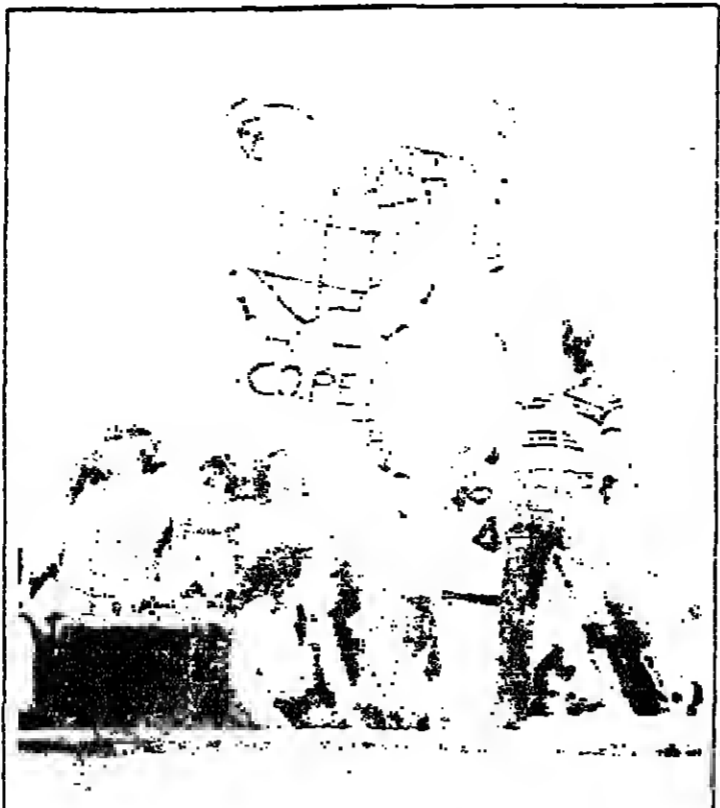
The disengagement followed talks in Baghdad earlier this month involving Kuwaiti Defence and Interior Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, the officials said.

Gulf diplomatic sources said progress towards settling the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border dispute would eliminate a major obstacle for Gulf cooperation in security and other vital issues. The region controls more than half the world's oil reserves.

No information was immediately available on the terms reached during Sheikh Saad's Baghdad trip but Iraq was believed earlier to be seeking access to two Kuwaiti islands which control the approaches to the north Iraqi port and military base at Um Qasr.

A settling of the border dispute would also allow Kuwait to go ahead with oil exploration in the border region, suspended after Iraqi troops entered the region late last year, observers said.

It would also allow Iraq access to the ports of Kuwait to relieve some of the pressures on heavily congested Iraqi harbours, they said.



PRISON DEMONSTRATION -- Prisoners demonstrate on Tuesday on the roof of the Carabanchel Prison in Madrid for amnesty and better conditions. Claims were made that some of them were injured by rubber bullets fired by police. (AP wirephoto).

Kaunda reshuffles Zambian cabinet

LUSAKA, July 20 (R). — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda today dismissed his prime minister and replaced him with one of his most loyal supporters amid indications that further changes were likely before next year's general elections.

The reshuffle, the second in landlocked Zambia in four months, removed Premier Elijah Mudeenda and replaced him with former Vice President Malinda Chona.

Mr. Chona has already served one term as premier between 1973, when the post was created, and 1975, when he resigned under still mysterious circumstances to become legal affairs minister. He was replaced by Mr. Mudeenda.

The legal affairs portfolio was taken over today by Mr. Daniel Lisulo, of the ruling UNIP (United National Independence Party) Central Committee. Mr. Mudeenda retained a Central Committee post.

A presidential statement announcing the changes did not give reasons for them. Government sources said the modifications were intended to "strengthen the system".

Observers look this to mean the Zambian leader, facing economic woes, food shortages and growing tension on his southern border with Rhodesia, might make further alterations in his government in the near future.

Ethiopia denies claims by Somali guerrillas

LONDON, July 20 (R). — The Ethiopian Ministry of Information and National Guidance said yesterday that it "categorically denied" that Ethiopian planes had been burned or shot down in the town of Dire Dawa.

Reuters in London, added that "such gross lies are also meant to hide facts concerning the loss of life of the infiltrating Somali regular soldiers have suffered."

Referring to claims by Mogadishu Radio last night that 10 Ethiopian planes were destroyed and 750 Ethiopian soldiers killed by the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) on Saturday, the ministry said all these preposterous claims are meant to mislead Somali public opinion in particular and world opinion in general.

The WSLF had also said it had captured several villages along what it called "the de facto border between Somalia and Ethiopia."

News Focus

People of Sri Lanka vote today

COLOMBO, July 20 (Agencies). — More than six million voters go to the polls in Sri Lanka tomorrow to decide the political fate of Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike, 61, the world's only remaining woman premier, after a campaign of unprecedented violence in which eight people have died.

At the same time the Tamils who make up about 20 per cent of the population, mainly in the northeast, have formed a Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF), which could play an important part in the formation of the next government if neither the Freedom nor United National Parties win an absolute majority of 85 seats.

continued major socialist-style reforms she launched in 1972. She cites her social policy, agricultural reform and the nationalisation of many industrial and commercial firms, as well as the international role she believes she has given Sri Lanka in the non-aligned movement.

Forecasts remain difficult, but Mrs. Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP), in power for the last seven years, is now considered in danger of losing to its principal opponent, J. R. Jayewardene's United National Party (UNP) despite what observers see as Mrs. Bandaranaike's brilliant electioneering.

TULF has 24 candidates, and is seeking the right to form nothing less than a separate Tamil state.

Mr. Jayewardene, 70, told a press conference that he would amend the Constitution to make the president the chief executive, while retaining the prime minister and cabinet.

For these observers, the vote of housewives exasperated by a rise in prices and the scarcity of basic necessities like soap and powdered milk could tip the balance towards the UNP.

There is also an impressive total of 277 independent candidates, though not more than a handful of them are expected to reach parliament.

The new system would be a blend of the American and British styles of government. He would become the first president as an interim measure but future presidents would be directly elected by the people, he said.

Among seven other officially-recognised parties, the Communists and Trotskyites, Mrs. Bandaranaike's allies in the 1970 election, have also formed a United Left Front (ULF) with Freedom Party dissidents, which, though not expected to win many seats, could take precious votes from the Freedom Party.

Mrs. Bandaranaike, seeking a third mandate at the head of a government she has led for 12 years -- from 1960 to 1965, and from 1970 -- is counting essentially on the vote of peasants from the country's Sinhalese majority to

NATO says USSR builds anti-Cruise radar towers

BRUSSELS, July 20 (R). — The Soviet Union is building high towers near its borders in a move apparently linked to the future deployment of the American Cruise missile, NATO intelligence sources said today.

Ground-based radar stations are blind to low-flying aircraft or missiles, or see them so late that linked anti-aircraft guns and rockets as well as interceptor planes do not have time to attack them.

The towers, which the sources said were hundreds of feet high, are believed topped with the most modern radar systems the Soviet Union can make.

The sources said the Soviet Union was trying to increase the efficiency of its radar, especially "look-down" systems designed for use against low-flying enemy aircraft or missiles -- to meet the challenge of the Cruise.

"The radar devices, from their position on the towers, can 'look down' a great distance to the horizon and thus pick up any incoming low-flying Cruise," said one source.

They said the Russians probably would increase their mobile air defences because the Cruise can be made to avoid fixed enemy gun and rocket sites but is helpless against a moving enemy.

The sources said the Soviet programme to build the towers was already under way at the time of the president's decision. It must therefore be designed for use against either the B-1 or the Cruise, both of which are designed to fly low in their final attack phase.

The sources said NATO also expects the Russians to build up their air fleet to attack Cruise-carrying B-52 bombers which would have to fly to within 500 kms. of the Soviet border before releasing the weapons.

Pentagon recommends sale of over \$8b worth of arms to South Korea

WASHINGTON, July 20 (R). — A Pentagon study has recommended the sale of more than \$8-billion worth of arms to South Korea to make up for the planned withdrawal of U.S. troops, government sources said yesterday.

going along with President Carter's wishes to delete funds for production of the B-1 bomber.

It recommended selling 239 jet fighters including 90 of the new F-16s, helicopters and observation planes, six destroyers, and a large number of missiles and guns, the sources said.

The vote on the bill, which sets defence spending at virtually the same level as this year, was 91-2.

The Defence Department study said that as compensation for the planned pull out of 33,000 American ground troops over the next five years, the United States should help the South Koreans set up their own production facilities for tanks and military helicopters.

The Senate had spent most of the last two days debating minor provisions of the bill, which is about \$4 billion lower than requested by the Carter administration.

The sources said the study provides the basis for an aid plan which President Carter

seed to Congress for approval.

Pentagon spokesman Tom Ross said yesterday the president had approved a general list of weapons that might be transferred to South Korea.

The negotiations would be subject to the approval of both President Carter and South Korean President Park Chung-Hee, Mr. Ross said.

Senate approves defence budget

The U.S. Senate yesterday approved a \$109.6 billion defence appropriations bill for the 1978 financial year after



IRISH SEAMAN -- Mr. Enda O'Coineen, 21-year-old seaman from Galway, Ireland, practices in his 5.23-metre inflatable boat. He left Marblehead, Massachusetts, USA, on Sunday for home, the first attempt to cross the Atlantic Ocean from west to east in such a craft. Mr. O'Coineen came to the United States a year ago aboard the Irish tall ship Creidne. (AP wirephoto).

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U.S. will sell F-15 to Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON, July 20 (R). — The Carter administration has decided to sell F-15 supersonic fighter-bombers to Saudi Arabia, the State Department said yesterday.

Disclosure of the president's approval came yesterday as Mr. Carter was holding his first meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

A department spokesman could not give details of the numbers involved, but U.S. government sources said earlier the Saudis had asked for 60 of the jets and this figure was under active consideration.

Israel became the first foreign country to buy the F-15 Eagle fighter, built by McDonnell-Douglas, when it ordered 25 of them two years ago. The first of them have been delivered.

The spokesman said Saudi Arabia's wish to buy America's most advanced fighter to replace British-built Lightnings

U.S. government sources said President Carter approved the controversial sale to Saudi Arabia in principle in May during a Washington visit of Crown Prince Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz.

Official China still silent over Teng's rehabilitation

PEKING, July 20 (AFP). — "It's great," "It's really good news," Chinese in the streets of Peking said today when asked about the decision, not yet officially confirmed, to rehabilitate former Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping.



Mr. Teng Hsiao-ping

People interviewed in front of a big-character slogan announcing his return said they "already knew" the slogan said Mr. Teng had been rehabilitated by the "Party centre", which could mean either the Central Committee or the Politburo. However, when asked how and when this decision was taken, people replied evasively: "Very recently".

ted about 50 cm. apart. The slogan also announced Mr. Teng's reinstatement in the four high posts he held before his downfall on April 7, 1975: Party vice chairman, vice premier, vice chairman of the Military Commission, and chief-of-staff.

Officials of the Foreign Ministry's Information Department replied with a "no comment" to journalists' questions on the subject. This was not a denial of the reports and their reply was generally interpreted as a confirmation by diplomats and journalists.

The announcement did not appear to greatly interest passers-by, whose curiosity was mainly aroused by the foreigners present.

The first two slogans announcing Mr. Teng's return to power were put up yesterday at around 1 p.m. near the Ministry of Economic Relations with Foreign Countries. Dated July 19 and signed by two departments of this ministry, in

the north of Peking, the posters were finally torn down around 1 a.m. this morning.

The presidential statement praised Mr. Chona's loyalty to the party. The jovial, moustache-wearing minister has held a wide variety of government positions, including ambassador to the United States in 1968. He is regarded as among President Kaunda's most loyal followers.

Only new thing seems virtually certain in spite of the continued official silence: A diminutive 73-year-old man, with a determined chin and an amazing personality, has re-emerged with full honours from "the dustbin of history" for the second time in his political career -- a unique achievement in a communist country at such a high level.

Court sentences 4 W. German leftists

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, July 20 (R). — A court here today sentenced four West German leftwing guerrillas to life imprisonment for an attack on the West German Embassy in Stockholm 27 months ago in which two diplomats were killed.

den to a West German jail. The trial lasted 14 months. Defence lawyers argued that the defendants were "resistance fighters" and should not have been tried by a West German court.

The court found Hanna Krabbe, Karl-Heinz Dellwo, Bernd Roessner and Lutz Tauffer guilty of murder, kidnapping and attempting to blackmail the Bonn government.

During their trial, the defendants declared that the "challenge of Stockholm was the language of guerrilla warfare."

The attack, on April 24, 1975, was an attempt to get the release of 26 members of the Baader-Meinhof urban guerrilla group from West German jails.

It was the third major trial of West German extremists. Three leaders of the Baader-Meinhof group -- Gudrun Ensslin, Andrea Baader and Jan-Carl Raspe -- were jailed for life by a Stuttgart court. Last month two extremists received life sentences in Karlsruhe.

The West German government refused to agree to their demands and the diplomats were then shot by the attackers.

The prosecution had demanded life imprisonment. Just before the verdicts were announced there were scuffles in court between police and leftwingers.

Police removed about 20 people from the court.

The accused, who were in court to hear the sentences, were the four survivors of six armed guerrillas who staged the attack. One died from burns suffered in an explosion which blew up the embassy. Another died from injuries while being moved from Sweden to a West German jail.

Japan's Mideast envoys meet in London

* LONDON, July 20 (R). — Japanese ambassadors to Israel and ten Arab countries met in London today for three days of talks on the Middle East situation. A Japanese Embassy spokesman said the envoys would discuss the latest political and economic developments, prospects of oil trade and problems of Japan's economic and technical cooperation in the region.

Japan's Mideast envoys meet in London today for three days of talks on the Middle East situation. A Japanese Embassy spokesman said the envoys would discuss the latest political and economic developments, prospects of oil trade and problems of Japan's economic and technical cooperation in the region.

Ministry officials from Tokyo were also attending the meeting, which brought together the envoys to Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the United Arab Emirates.

Algeria reiterates support for Libya

* ALGIERS, July 20 (R). — The Algerian government daily Al Moudjahid today reiterated Algeria's support for Libya, and denounced what it called a wide ranging assault on the Libyan revolution. The paper criticised "a certain conjunction of petrodollars, Western belligerent techniques and mercenaries, that had formed and launched a wide ranging assault on the Libyan revolution, to oppose the camp of revolution and independence."

Algeria reiterates support for Libya

The Algerian Council of the Revolution, had gone to Libya to deliver a message from Algerian President Houari Boumedienne to the Libyan head of state Muammar Qadhafi. Col. Yabihou "will not fail to reiterate the fraternity and militant friendship that exists between our two countries and people," the paper said.

Greece marks Turk invasion of Cyprus

* ATHENS, July 20 (R). — Greece today marked the third anniversary of Turkey's invasion of Cyprus with one minute's silence preceded by the tolling of church bells across the country. The observance was to mourn the dead and missing in Cyprus and to protest against Turkey's continued occupation of the northern part of the island.

5 die in Abu Dhabi's heat wave

* ABU DHABI, July 20 (R). — Five people have died here in a heat wave which sent temperatures soaring to 45 degrees centigrade in the past three days, local hospitals reported. Another 81 people have been admitted to hospital suffering heat stroke, with humidity at the 100 per cent level during the night, they added.

Israeli antique dealer operates thus

* BRUSSELS, July 20 (R). — Two Frenchmen were sentenced to four years jail and fined 12,000 Belgian francs (€194) here today after being found guilty of throwing a hand grenade through the window of a Brussels antique dealer last December. The two men, 22-year-old Christian Bethmont and 25-year-old Emile Ferret, both of Paris, told the court an Israeli antique dealer working in Brussels had offered them 4,000 French francs (€482) to throw the grenade. They said the Israeli wanted to frighten the Belgian dealer, M. Georges Cluquet of Rue du Peuple, who he said had refused to pay the agreed price of 50,000 French francs (€5,024) for some African masks which Mr. Namady had sent him. The two Frenchmen threw the grenade through M. Cluquet's window last Dec. 24 and were arrested that day before they could return to Paris to claim their payment.